

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 5, 35, 75, 90, and 91.

These sheets, which include Figures 1, 4-6, 35, 75, 90, and 91, replaces the original sheets including Figures 1, 4-6, 35, 75, 90, and 91.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-20 and 22-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 20 and 22 are amended, and claim 21 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.¹

In the Office Action the drawings are objected to for multiple reasons.

In response to the objections to the drawings made in paragraph 1 of the Office Action, as shown in the attached replacement pages, Figure 1 is amended to include reference sign “11”. It is submitted that the description does not appear to mention reference sign 15a. However, Figure 5 is amended to include reference sign “105a” in place of reference sign “15a”. It is submitted that Figure 75 includes reference sign “50”. Figure 91 is amended to include reference sign “501” in place of reference sign “501M”. Figure 90 is amended to include reference sign “502BK” in place of reference sign “502B”. Figure 91 is also amended to include reference sign “502”.

In response to the objections to the drawings made in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, it is submitted that page 17, line 14 of the specification mentions carrying area 11. Figure 90 is amended to remove reference signs “507” and “509”, and Figure 91 is amended to remove reference signs “531”, “532”, “534” and “550”.

In response to the objections to the drawings made in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Figure 35 is amended to include reference sign “102” in place of reference sign “12”. The specification is also amended to state “electrodes 102 and 102.”

In response to the objections to the drawings made in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Figure 75 is amended to include reference sign “76” in place of reference sign “27”, in accordance with the Examiner’s helpful suggestion.

¹ Support for the changes to the independent claims is provided, in part, on page 22, lines 9-16, of the originally filed application.

For these reasons, it is requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

In the Office Action the specification is objected to because of informalities. In response, the specification is amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. For these reasons, it is requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In the Office Action claims 1-23 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,607,938 to Hosoi et al. (Hosoi) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,708,939 to Oikawa et al. (Oikawa). Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi and Oikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,934,256 to Isonaka et al. It is submitted that the amendments to the claims overcome the rejections for the following reasons.

The present invention, as recited in independent claim 1, is directed to a toner supply device for supplying toner to a surface of an electrostatic transport member which conveys the toner by generating a progressive wave electric field. The toner is conveyed to a developing position facing a latent image carrying member and develops a latent image on the latent image carrying member by the toner.

It is submitted that the combination of Hosoi and Oikawa does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of supplying toner to a surface of an electrostatic transport member which conveys the toner by generating a progressive wave electric field, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action states that Hosoi discloses a toner supply device in an image forming apparatus for supplying toner to a surface of an electrostatic transport member which carries the toner with an electrostatic force to a developing position facing a latent image carrying member. In fact, Hosoi discloses that the non-magnetic developer is coated on the non-magnetic carrying member 12, and that the non-magnetic member 12 is rotated to

convey the non-magnetic developer to the photosensitive member 3.² However, Hosoi does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of supplying toner to a surface of an electrostatic transport member which conveys the toner by generating a progressive wave electric field, as recited in independent claim 1.

The Office Action relies on Oikawa to disclose a developing apparatus that includes a mesh. Thus, it is submitted that Oikawa also does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features of supplying toner to a surface of an electrostatic transport member which conveys the toner by generating a progressive wave electric field, as recited in independent claim 1.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn, and that independent claim 1 be allowed.

Independent claims 20 and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to those of independent claim 1. Specifically, independent claim 20 recites an electrostatic transport member for conveying toner on a surface thereof by generating a progressive wave electric field, and independent claim 22 recites a developing device for developing a latent image by conveying toner on a surface of an electrostatic transport member by generating a progressive wave electric field. Thus, it is requested that the rejection of independent claims 20 and 22 be withdrawn, and that independent claims 20 and 22 be allowed.

Claims 2-19 and 23-28 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 22 from which they depend, as well as for their own features. Thus, the allowance of dependent claims 2-19 and 23-28 is requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

² Column 5, lines 19 and 20, and column 3, lines 52-63.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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